

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 1, 2005. Claims 1-16, 36-51 and 71-86 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 89-106 have been added to provide Applicants with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 89, 105 and 106 are independent. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 5-11, 36, 40-46, 71 and 75-81 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over publication "Sam's Teach Yourself Windows 95 in 10 Minutes" (*Windows 95*); Claims 2, 37 and 72, as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of U.S. Patent 6,449,663 (Carney et al.); Claims 4, 39 and 74, as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of publication "Windows NT Server 4 Unleashed, Second Edition" (*Windows NT*); Claims 3, 38 and 73, as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of publication "The Complete Idiot's Guide To Windows 95" (*Guide*); and Claims 12-16, 47-51 and 82-86, as being unpatentable over *Windows 95* in view of publication "Image of Device Manager in Windows 95" (*Device Manager*).

Cancellation of the rejected claims renders those rejections moot. The newly presented independent claims are believed to be allowable, for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claim 89 is directed to an information processing apparatus connected to a network, and comprises a communicating unit, arranged to communicate information with each of terminal devices on the network, and a domain information acquiring unit, arranged to acquire domain information of the network. A first acquiring unit is arranged to perform an acquisition function based on the domain information

acquired by the domain information acquiring unit, to acquire first information related to the terminal device connected to the domain whose information is acquired by the domain information acquiring unit. A second acquiring unit is arranged to perform an acquisition function based on the first information, to acquire second information related to a peripheral device which is locally connected, not through the network, to the terminal device whose first information is acquired by the first acquiring unit. A third acquiring unit is arranged to perform an acquisition function based on the second information, to acquire a use status of that peripheral device, and a storing unit is arranged to store a data structure of the acquired domain information, the first information and the second information, and the use status of the peripheral device acquired by the third acquiring unit. A display unit is arranged to display, after acquisition is performed by the third acquiring unit and after storage by the storing unit, information of the terminal device whose first information is acquired by the first acquiring unit, and to display information and use status of the peripheral device whose second information and use status are acquired by the second acquiring unit and the third acquiring unit, respectively.

Among other notable features recited in Claim 89, are:

the first acquiring unit, which performs acquisition based on the domain information acquired by the domain information acquiring unit;

the second acquiring unit, which performs acquisition based on the first information acquired by the first acquiring unit;

the third acquiring unit, which performs acquisition based on the second information acquired by the second acquiring unit; and

display of the acquired domain information, first information, second information and use status, after acquisition of those pieces of information.

Thus, according to Claim 89, (1) the acquisition of the domain information by the domain information acquiring unit, (2) the acquisition of the first information by the first acquiring unit, (3) the acquisition of the second information by the second acquiring unit, (4) the acquisition of the use status of the peripheral device by the third acquiring unit, and (5) the display of the acquired domain information, first and second information and use status, are performed in the order (1), (2), (3), (4), (5). The performance of these operations, in this sequence, is supported, at the least, by Fig. 9 and corresponding disclosure at page 18, lines 10-21, in the originally filed specification.¹

According to *Windows 95*, the Explorer can display the server on the network, the terminal device, and the peripheral device connected to the terminal device. Applicants submit, however, that nothing in *Windows 95* would teach or suggest the five operations performed by the four recited domain acquisition units and the display unit, in the order (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) described above. As a matter of fact, the Explorer of *Windows 95* cannot display all the peripheral devices connected to the terminal device, without double-clicking the icon of the terminal device. Applicants submit that this implies that the Explorer performs the display at the stage of acquiring the information of the terminal device, that is, operation (5) immediately after performing operation (2) without performing any operation corresponding to (3) or (4).

In contrast, in the apparatus of Claim 89, the information of the terminal device on the network, the information of the peripheral device locally connected to the terminal device and the information of the use status are acquired, and then the display operation (5) is performed. By virtue of this, as shown in Fig. 3, it is possible to display

^{1/} It is to be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of any embodiment referred to in these Remarks.

from the beginning the peripheral device connected to the terminal device and its use status. In this regard, Applicants submit that if it were intended to cause the Explorer of *Windows 95* to perform the same display as that of the present invention as shown in Fig. 3, it would be necessary for the user to double-click the icons of all the terminal devices. Such an operation, of course, can be very cumbersome, especially if any significant number of terminal devices are of interest.

Accordingly, it is believed clear that Claim 89 is allowable over *Window 95* taken alone.

Independent Claims 105 and 106 are method and computer memory medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 89, and are believed to be patentable over *Windows 95*, taken alone, for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 89.

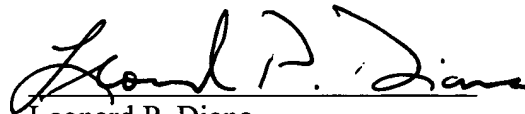
A review of the other art of record, including *Carney*, *Windows NT* and *Guide* has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from Claim 89, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

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